

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-non-final Office Action mailed October 28, 2004 (Paper No. 20041015). Upon entry of this response, claims 1-7, 11, 12, 16, 20, 21, 25, 70, 71, 73-75, and 76-85 are pending in the application. In this response, claims 9, 10, 13-15, 18, 19, 22-24, 55-69, and 72 have been cancelled, and claims 76-85 have been added. Applicant asserts that the amendments add no new subject matter to the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments being filed herewith be entered and that there be reconsideration of all pending claims.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-7, 11, 12, 16, 20, 21, 25, 70, 71, and 73-75. In this response, Applicant has cancelled the remaining rejected claims, and respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

2. Rejection of Claims 56-58, 61-63, and 66 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 56-58, 61-63, and 66 have been rejected under §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by *Marko* (U.S. 6,229,824). Claims 56-58, 61-63, and 66 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection of these claims is rendered moot. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public.

3. Rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 10 has been rejected under §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by *Sinha et al.* (U.S. 6,292,917). Claim 10 is cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection of this claim is rendered moot. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of this cancelled claim in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public.

4. Rejection of Claims 59-60, 64, and 65 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 59-60, 64, and 65 have been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Marko* (U.S. 6,229,824) in view of the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art. Claims 59-60, 64, and 65 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection of these claims is rendered moot. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public.

5. Rejection of Claims 67-69 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 67-69 have been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Sinha et al.* (U.S. 6,292,917) in view of the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art. Claims 67-69 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection of these claims is rendered moot. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant

reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public.

6. Rejection of Claims 9, 13-15, 18, 19, 22-24, 55, and 72 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9, 13-15, 18, 19, 22-24, 55, and 72 have been rejected under §103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Sinha et al.* (U.S. 6,292,917) in view of *Zimmermann et al.* (U.S. 6,522,700).

Claims 9, 13-15, 18, 19, 22-24, 55, and 72 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection of these claims is rendered moot. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public.

7. Newly Added Claims


New claims 76-85 are based on subject matter that is explicit and/or inherent within the description of the specification and/or the drawings. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added in the new claims, and that new claims 76-85 are allowable over the cited prior art. Specifically, since claims 11, 20, and 25 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 76-85 are allowable for at least the reason that each depends from an allowable claim. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, Applicant requests the Examiner to enter and allow the above new claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and presently pending claims 1-7, 11, 12, 16, 20, 21, 25, 70, 71, 73-75, and 76-85 be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicant's response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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